

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1 and 2 are currently being prosecuted. The remaining claims have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Entry of Amendment

Applicant has cancelled all of the non-allowed claims so that the application is now *prima facie* in condition for allowance. Entry of this Amendment and full consideration thereof is considered proper.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 3, 4, 7, 11, 12 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Skolnik et al. (U.S. Patent 5,026,431). Claims 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Palmer (U.S. Patent 4,592,288). Both of these rejections are respectfully traversed. Since these claims have been cancelled, these rejections have been rendered moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Skolnik et al. Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Palmer. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Since these claims have been canceled, these rejections have been rendered moot. Claim 8

stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Skolnik et al. in view of Jamaluddin (U.S. Patent 6,135,765). Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Skolnik et al. in view of Bickell et al. (U.S. Patent 6,055,915). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Skolnik et al. in view of Domnitch (U.S. Patent 4,688,494). These rejections are respectfully traversed. Since these claims have been canceled, these rejections have been rendered moot.

Since no outstanding rejections remain, Applicant submits that the application should now be allowed. Applicants reserve the right to file a Continuation application for further consideration of the cancelled claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that the application now is in allowable form. In view of this, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested.

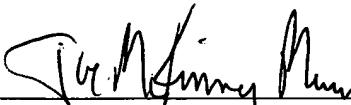
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse (Reg. No. 27,295) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$60.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)